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By: [Signature]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

THOMAS FALONE, ET AL.

SERIAL NO.: 10/067,594

FILING DATE: 2/5/02

FOR: STING MINIMIZING GRIP FOR A
HAND HELD SWINGING ATHLETIC
CONTACT MAKING ARTICLE

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Add the following claims 29-31.

29. In a hand held swinging athletic contact making article having an impact end and a handle connected to said impact end, the improvement being in a gripping cover mounted on and around said handle for minimizing sting when said handle is held, said gripping cover being a multi-layer laminate including an outer exposed layer and at least one inner layer, said inner layer being made of force dissipating material which has the characteristics of absorbing and redirecting vibrational energy,